

**ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE CAUCUS PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vecchio at 7:00 p.m., the clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

SCOTT, SCHMUCK, ORCUTT, TROYER, MENCINI, POINDEXTER, SALVATORE
Also in attendance were Mayor Gammella and Law Director Horvath.

DISCUSSION:

1. DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL - BOB EVANS RESTAURANTS, LLC; DBA BOB EVANS RESTAURANT 56; 13050 BROOKPARK ROAD; BROOK PARK, OH 44142 FOR A **NEW C 0320703-0075** FOR A D1 AND D2 PERMIT CLASS. **POSTMARK DATE NO LATER THAN 5/24/21.**
2. DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL - BOB EVANS RESTAURANTS, LLC; DBA BOB EVANS RESTAURANT 56; 16500 SNOW ROAD; BROOK PARK, OH 44142 FOR A **NEW 0320703-0175** FOR A D2 PERMIT CLASS. **POSTMARK DATE NO LATER THEN 6/1/2021.**

Mrs. Horvath stated been unsuccessful in getting any new information. Reached out to Bob Evans Corporate and also State of Ohio Liquor department, apparently liquor department employees are working offsite. For that reason, can't explain Bob Evans corporation thinking as far as wanting to incorporate these licenses into their business; nor can I say why the request for each restaurant is different. That leaves Council with a couple of options with moving to the next meeting with the understanding to make further efforts to speak with them. Or can also discuss this and move on leaving the question as to what is going on here.

Mr. Vecchio commented the next meeting would be June 1st missing the May 24th deadline date.

Mrs. Horvath responded the clerk can write asking for an extension of 30 days.

Ms. Blazak commented if Council desires a 30-day extension that can be requested.

Mr. Salvatore stated Council doesn't approve any liquor requests if Council doesn't like the request they can object, don't take a vote to approve. If Council doesn't have the proper information so by a vote of Council possibly request a thorough explanation as to why these permits are set up the way they are to get the questions answered, that Mrs.

Discussion: cont.

Horvath brought forward. At least, there is record of doing something because if Council doesn't do anything the permits move forward without Council-matic action.

Mr. Mencini thanked Mr. Salvatore for his suggestion and stated with the world opening up again from the pandemic you would think this would be somewhat a priority. Little disappointed with the lack of communication especially from such a big franchise as Bob Evans is; if they wanted these permits you would think there would be more urgency to this.

Mr. Troyer stated the other option would be to object to it and let them ask the city why?

Mr. Vecchio responded correct, the permit says responses must be postmarked no later than May 24, 2021.

Mrs. Horvath stated if Council objects there must be a reason designated by the Ohio Revised Code. Would be hesitant in doing that so that the city ends up in a hearing in Columbus, unless absolutely necessary. Sure there is a reason Bob Evans is pursuing this policy and have had no problems with the employees at the Brookpark location speaking with me, been as far as the district manager. The issue I have is that the district manager only knows so much and the corporate office isn't responding. Am unaware of any reason why we would be able to say that Bob Evans should not have a liquor license there and think Council wants to know Bob Evans thinking and have some further background.

Mr. Troyer responded the idea would be to just object because Council didn't get the information wanted, get the information the permits will get approved. With the 30-day postmark and getting through the mail I think asking for an extension gives Council plenty of time.

Mr. Salvatore commented usually on these permits there is a contact person listed and on both of these permits there is no contact person. So Council is kind of stuck in not being able to make communications since no name is listed.

Mrs. Horvath commented that would be appropriate and that is why both myself and the clerk tried to reach out to the state and both unsuccessful.

Mr. Salvatore stated this is on the Council agenda immediately following so no action needs to be taken, at this point.

Discussion: cont.

Motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mr. Poindexter, that item numbers one and two were discussed.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Poindexter, Mencini, Salvatore, Scott, Schmuck, Orcutt

NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Back to chambers:

Mr. Vecchio asked Council to have the floor for a few minutes, everyone good? No response. Mr. Vecchio continued everyone is aware that the governor has lifted the mask mandate beginning June 2nd. So with the email sent out to everyone on June 8th the Council chambers will be opened to in-person meetings. Obviously, there are still some reservation out there and one thing brought up is about having cleaning wipes and things of that nature. Council, would like to ask everyone what items would you like to see in chambers i.e. wipes and items that can be made readily available for the June 8th meeting. Since the chambers will be open means residents will be attending.

Mr. Poindexter stated one of the items I would like to see at the open meeting would be a sign-in sheet so if there is a resurgence of the virus contact tracing and things of that nature can be done. Would like people to come in and sit six-feet apart, still keep some of the social distancing protocols in place in case the virus comes back the city is doing everything possible to maintain. Would like to still see masks in use, even though the mask mandate is going to be lifted for outdoors but still unclear about indoors. Would like the audience chairs to be spaced six-feet apart and could also consider Council coming into contact with a lot of different people. Until it is known for sure we are in the clear think we should be as cautious as possible.

Mr. Salvatore stated haven't changed position from the very beginning and still feel the chambers should be cleaned prior to every meeting. Think the idea of having sanitation wipes and/or spray is a good idea along with everything Mr. Poindexter brought up should be included. Think this should all be in writing and publicized and if Council isn't ready by June 8th then shouldn't do it but if ready that's great. Everyone should know exactly what to expect when coming to a Council meeting and all this should be in place and posted on the city's website so that everyone knows about it. COVID-19 didn't go away it did slow down a little bit but is still in existence. Want to try and follow the leaders in a case like this and Southwest hospital is still watching this very closely and are not ready to jump into action but are prepared. Want to do this and think it's the right thing to do by meeting in person but need to do it safely. Not just for Council but for everyone that walks in that door for all meetings going forward. Might have to consider having somebody there if there is a long line of people, don't think we will, but if there is more than one person coming to the microphone and podium should be wiped down for that next person; somebody should be there to handle that for us. Ready to sit down with anybody to put this into a procedure to be followed.

Back to chambers: cont. Mrs. Schmuck stated agree with colleagues with following six-foot distance my only concern is what would be the maximum capacity of people with the six-foot distancing. What is the maximum capacity of the chambers currently and with the two meters in between?

Mr. Vecchio stated great point and believe the maximum capacity is on the wall of the chambers somewhere. Will take a look at that and figure it out.

Mr. Mencini stated all great ideas and will be more on the pessimistic side, won't play it both ways. My point is that I've been in that recreation center ever since it reopened in June, 2020. We're making it sound like the recreation center hasn't been open and we're opening the building up and almost insult the recreation center cleaning crew and recreation staff that things aren't getting done. If somebody doesn't want to come to a meeting don't come, I thought when going back we were going back as a strong Council. Not insulting anybody but that's what I felt and if we feel that all the restrictions have to be thrown up why bother going back? Absolutely, hand sanitizer and no crowding but there have been zoning meetings in that room along with other meetings and court. Sooner or later as leaders we have to be the leaders to get back there; it's time to go back and let's be strong Council about it. There will be restrictions and we know what we have to do and that recreation staff knows what we have to do. Been home long enough and on June 2nd the governor is dropping most of the mandates.

Mr. Orcutt stated I think we provide everybody suggestions that have been put out there making sure everyone is comfortable with coming to meetings. Want to welcome the people but everyone has different opinions about this virus. A suggestion I have is put a table by the microphone for residents with hand sanitizer, wipes and rubbish can for disposal. Then after residents speak they can wipe down the microphone and podium. Also, like the posting of the protocols and maybe out of the Council budget something can be purchased for people to see at the entrance of the recreation center, as going by the front desk. Then have an additional sign on both doors and maybe a sign inside the chambers reminding people about social distancing and so forth. Think that would make people that want to come but a little nervous more comfortable by Council showing protocol. As Mr. Mencini stated people are at the recreation center and Council has all been out and think we did a good job at being responsible. The Planning commission has met regularly and have to say that all the commissioners and residents that show up there show professional courtesy with social distancing and there haven't been any issues and haven't heard anybody contracting the virus at any of those meeting. By taking a couple of those steps with bigger boards made up and a table at the microphone that will help make Council more efficient by opening the chambers back up.

Mr. Troyer stated have stood on this for months as far my concerns but that's not the concerns now; it's Council as a whole. I'd like to figure out what can be done to make everybody happy to get us back in the chambers and close to the normal, as possible. At

Back to Chambers: cont.

this point, think a cleaning within two hours of the meeting before with Council scheduling and paying for it to get it done. With the approval of the Mayor to use the room a little bit earlier for cleaning and sanitized before the meeting. Secondly, I like the safety of the masks but think if you look at what has been going on for the last six months with bars and restaurants being open and people at work with dividers. I think to get as close to normal as possible also purchase some dividers in between Council spots on the dais and other spots. That way we are all back where we belong and we're safe as the process has shown it will work. The front counter of the recreation center has the plastic (barriers). Let's do something like those two items think that will go a long way. As far as the people coming that's to be determined but those chairs have been distanced six-feet for months with audiences for Planning & Zoning meetings and other meetings being held in there. To have people still watch the meetings live have it so people can still call in if they don't to attend a meeting but want to speak should still be available, think that would take care of the crowd. Get the idea of taking people's names but I think some people may want to be anonymous, maybe or maybe not, but that's a little concern of mine. For us to get as close as possible to normal hire somebody to sanitize before the meeting and have the dividers keeps our group safe. Want to get done whatever everybody needs to get back to chambers I want to do that.

Mr. Scott stated agree with some of the ideas presented and think masks should be provided in case residents want to wear one but don't have one. Like the idea of the table by the podium for residents to be able to wipe down when done. Like Mr. Poindexter's idea with signing in because this isn't something that is not exotic other cities have sign-in at Council meetings and if not mistaken at the Cuyahoga County Council meetings, not a rare animal. To Mayor Gammella did the city not pay \$48,000.00 to have all city buildings and equipment sanitized and isn't that procedure good for a year. Just need to come in and wipe down.

Mayor Gammella responded yes.

Mr. Scott responded I was hesitant about going in and am now more relaxed on the mask mandates. The mandates are falling let's leave it up to our residents to decide what they want to do. The chairs could be set up with six-foot distancing and if a resident wants to move one that's up to them. The mandates are lifted except for senior assisted living and so forth. Give the residents the option to decide what they want to do and am ready to go back to chambers and let's get back to normal as possible.

Mr. Vecchio stated Council can amend (Council) rule number nine allowing myself to have an electronic device on the dais for residents to be able to call in. If I have that ability, I can still have a Zoom on the dais and have meetings that way. Where residents, Councilmember, the administration or anybody else is not comfortable going into chambers they can Zoom (meeting) also. My hope and know everyone has reservations about this,

Back to chambers: cont.

including myself, is that residents, members or peers don't use that against somebody who is not comfortable. Again, as everybody said there is still a lot of unknowns with the virus; have no idea how it affects any one person and don't think there is a right or wrong answer and hope that everyone in our community that we serve feels the same way. Thank you for allowing that time.

Mr. Poindexter stated I would like to ask the clerk that whatever protocols and mandates for the residents can be added to the residents as a cover sheet.

Mr. Salvatore stated don't think there is a chemical or product made that can do a one-time cleaning that will last one year. Don't want to send out any messages that is all that needs to be done because that's not true.

There being no further action to come before this meeting a **motion** by Mr. Mencini, supported by Mrs. Schmuck, to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mencini, Schmuck, Scott, Orcutt, Poindexter, Salvatore

NAYS: Troyer. The motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

Council President Vecchio declared this meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED

